

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION FACILITY (LAF)

LAF supports seminars on key EU policies with an impact at local level for both elected members and permanent officials of local and regional authorities.

The seminars not only present the relevant EU *acquis* but also provide good examples of implementation of the EU legislation and initiatives by municipalities in Member States.

LAF can also include visits to EU institutions. In this framework and in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions, the programme offers the possibility of meeting leading representatives of local and regional authorities in the EU.

The seminars gather participants from all IPA beneficiaries and provide a platform for exchange and networking. The project not only supports the establishment of contacts and partnerships between the participants but also among these participants and experts from Member States' municipalities.

Selection of participants

The selection of participants is conducted by the Directorate General for Enlargement (DG ELARG) with the assistance of the European Union Delegations (EUDs) in the countries concerned.

The role of EUDs in the process of selection of the participants has developed to a standardised procedure, including regular contacts with local associations of municipalities.

Associations are the natural partners of EUDs, especially when it comes to follow-up and dissemination of information after LAF events (involving local publications or information meetings).

Participants are asked, as part of the application procedure, to indicate a method of dissemination of the acquired knowledge (internet, press, radio, leaflets, seminar, workshop, info-point in the region/municipality, networks or exchange platforms and others).

Selection of topics

In order to identify the most relevant subjects, the selection is done together with EUDs and geographical Units of DG Enlargement in close cooperation with the Committee of the Regions. The topics of events vary accordingly.

LAF Events in 2014 - Priority Areas & Proposed Workshop Topics

Approximately 18-20 multi-beneficiary seminars are planned to be organised in 2014 within the LAF programme. On the basis of the analysis of the recent Enlargement Package and taking into account the feedback of the participants from previous LAF events, **four priority areas** have been defined:

- 1. Rule of Law at the heart of the accession process**
- 2. Fundamental rights – better implementation in practice**
- 3. Economic governance and social challenges**
- 4. EU *acquis* for the benefit of citizens - environment & climate change**

An indicative list of LAF events 2014 can be found here ([link to the pdf document](#))